7:Gatschet E-4,5 (1877) 1890 NR10 Klamath NR10

000 they are rather a cloddish, indolent, ordinarily good-natured race, but treacherous at bottom, sullen when angered, notorious for keeping Punic faith. But their bravery nobody can deny."*

THE PREHISTORIC PERIOD.

174 Before the middle of the nineteenth century the Máklaks people was unknown to mankind except to the nearest neighbors in Oregon and California. We are therefore justified in beginning its period of documentary history at that time, and in relegating to the domain of prehistorics all that is known of their previous condition. The information upon these points is furnished by three factors: tradition, archæologic remains, and language.

A. TRADITION BEARING UPON HISTORY.

121 773 Traditional folk-lore, when of the mythic order, generally dates from an earlier epoch of fixation than historic traditions. The remote origin of *genuine* mythic folk-lore is sufficiently evidenced by the archaic terms embodied with it, by the repetition of the same phraseology for ages, and by the circumstance that all nations tend to preserve their religious ideas in an unchanged form. I am laying peculiar stress upon the term *genuine*, for Indians have often mixed recent ideas and fictions with archaic, original folk-lore and with ancient mythic ideas, the whole forming now one inextricable conglomerate which has the appearance of aboriginal poetic prose.

173 769 688 171 784 The Klamath people possess no historic traditions going further back in time than a century, for the simple reason that there was a strict law prohibiting the mention of the person or acts of a deceased individual by *using his name*. This law was rigidly observed among the Californians no less than among the Oregonians, and on its transgression the death penalty could be inflicted. This is certainly enough to suppress all historic knowledge within a people. How can history be written without names?

[126] Many times I attempted to obtain a list of the former head chiefs of the two chieftaincies. I succeeded only in learning the names of two chiefs recently deceased, and no biographic details were obtainable.

174 This people belongs to the autochthonic nations of America, called so because they have lost all remembrances of earlier habitats or of migrations.

* Contributions to Amer. Ethnology, III, p. 233.